



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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**FOR INFORMATION CALL:
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Lantos Intervenes to Give Local Family Another Chance to Press Immigration Case

San Mateo, CA – A San Bruno couple has been spared imminent removal from the United States and will now have six additional months to press their case to remain here with their children, thanks to a holiday helping hand from Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA).

After meeting with Alfredo and Maria Plascencia yesterday, Lantos secured a commitment from immigration authorities in Washington and California that the Plascencias will not be forced to leave the country on January 6 as originally ordered, and that they will have six months to work with their lawyers and the federal government to try to resolve their complex case.

To secure this commitment, Lantos wrote to the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement that “for humanitarian reasons, including the fact that they have been in the United States for fifteen years and have four school-age children, I believe (the Plascencias) should be granted deferred action,” and that “the facts of this matter appear to be sufficiently compelling to warrant deferred action until their children are no longer of vulnerable age.”

Similarly, Lantos had written to immigration authorities in November 2002 that the Plascencias “would suffer economically and emotionally if either parent was deported.”

On learning late yesterday of the federal authorities’ decision to defer action on the Plascencias’ case pending review, Lantos said, “The family can now have a happy holiday, secure in the knowledge that everything possible is being done to keep them together.”

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